

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre also proposes to address problems faced by other jails in this backward State; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) to (d) "Prisons" is a State subject under List li of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. However, in order to improve the condition of prisons, prisoners and prison personnel, the Central Government launched a non-plan scheme in 2002-03 for construction of additional prisons to reduce overcrowding, repair and renovation of existing prisons, improvement in sanitation and water supply, and living accommodation of prison staff. A five year scheme is being implemented in the States with an outlay of Rs. 1800 crore on a cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively.

Bhadrak jail in Orissa faces a problem of overcrowding. Under the aforesaid scheme, Government of Orissa has taken up construction of 21 new jails and expansion and renovation in a number of jails. Bhadrak jail has also been included in the aforesaid scheme. An amount of Rs. 80.55 crore as the Central share has been released to the Government of Orissa for undertaking activities under the scheme in various jails in the State.

Communal riots in the country

69. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of communal riots are on the increase in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of compensation paid to riot victims, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether compensation/rehabilitation assistance paid to the victims

or their families is not uniform and does not commensurate with their sufferings;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government are considering to enhance the rate of compensation/rehabilitation assistance paid under such circumstances and lay down a criteria for determining uniform rate of such assistance; and

(g) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) During the last three years, while there was no major riot in the year 2004, one major riot occurred in Mau in 2005 and during the current year 2006 so far three major riots have occurred at Lucknow, Aligarh and Vadodara.

(c) to (e) Rehabilitation of victims of the riot is a State subject and as such assistance paid by the State Government vary from State to State.

(f) and (g) The Government of India have introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 5.12.2005 Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005. This Bill provides for rehabilitation and also for payment of compensation on uniform basis for the victims of the communal riots. The Bill is currently before the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Increase in Interest rate on EPF

70. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to increase the EPF rate for the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of beneficiaries of EPF reported during the last two years, State-wise; and